

An Act for the more effectual prevention of corrupt practices at Elections.

WHEREAS at many elections, as well Municipal as Parliamentary, corrupt and demoralizing practices are frequently resorted to by candidates, their agents and others; And whereas the laws at present in force intended for the prevention of such practices have not been found effectual for the purposes for which they were intended, and it is desirable that still more stringent enactments should be enforced against all such corrupt and demoralizing practices; Therefore Her Majesty, &c. enacts as follows:

Preamble.

I. From and after the passing of this Act, each and every candidate at any election, whether the same shall be for Legislative Councillor, or Representative in the Legislative Assembly, or for Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor in any Municipal Corporation in this Province, shall take and subscribe, before the Returning Officer, or before some one of his Deputies, or before some Justice of the Peace resident within the Division, County, or City within which such election may be held, a Declaration in writing pursuant to the form in the Schedule to this Act annexed, marked A.

Declaration in Schedule to be made by every candidate.

II. Any candidate who shall refuse or neglect to deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the Returning Officer in Chief at such election, before the final closing of the poll thereat (or within days thereafter), the Declaration in the Schedule to this Act annexed, marked A, shall be deemed to be disqualified in law from accepting, sitting, or acting, or of being elected or returned as Legislative Councillor, Member of the Legislative Assembly, or Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor in any Municipal Council, at any election at which he shall so refuse or neglect as aforesaid.

Candidate refusing to make it to be disqualified.

III. Any candidate who shall take and subscribe the said Declaration, knowing the same to be false, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and being thereof convicted before any Court of competent jurisdiction, shall be liable to a fine not to exceed fifty pounds in amount, or to imprisonment not to exceed six months in duration; and the record of such conviction shall be *prima facie* evidence of his ineligibility and disqualification from sitting, or performing the duties of Legislative Councillor, of Member of the Legislative Assembly, or of Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor of any Municipality, in virtue of any election or return made at any election where such false Declaration was taken and subscribed by him, as aforesaid.

Willful false statement in declaration to be a misdemeanour.